

State Morning Summary Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP81B00401R000500110020-6
 BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH - ANALYSIS - AUGUST 8, 1980

Jan

1. IRAN: NEW PRIME MINISTER FINALLY NOMINATED

Khomeini's demand that the Majlis and the President stop squabbling may have led to yesterday's announcement that Mohamad Ali Rajai, a member of the Islamic Republican Party (IRP) and the Majlis, would be the nominee for Prime Minister. His nomination represents a triumph for the hardliners. We would expect Bani-Sadr to have little influence in the selection of the cabinet and the formulation of future government policy.

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Although not a cleric, Rajai is an Islamic fundamentalist who will advocate hardline policies. He is said to be "close" to Khomeini and to support the Islamic cultural revolution. In a speech at Tehran's Friday mosque, July 4, he asserted that "the government, Majlis, judicial and educational systems, women's clothing, and other aspects of life in Iran should be based on Islam." We are unaware of his precise attitude toward the hostage crisis, although it would probably differ little from the general hardline position. Rajai is 47 years old and has served as Minister of Education since September 1979.

25X1 [] IRP wanted Bani-Sadr to select Jalal ad-Din Farsi (the IRP's former Presidential candidate) as the Prime Minister nominee. Bani-Sadr's refusal to do so may have caused Khomeini to fear that the continuing impasse might precipitate a constitutional crisis. []

25X1 [] Beheshti may have been preparing to exercise his authority as president of the Supreme Court and recommend to Khomeini that Bani-Sadr be impeached. Thus, in one sense, although Bani-Sadr had to accept the IRP candidate, Rajai's nomination represents a small victory for Bani-Sadr; he was able to stop the Farsi nomination.

Once his nomination is confirmed, Rajai will have the constitutional responsibility of nominating the cabinet. That process could take time as he works to satisfy and balance various interests. Among potential cabinet candidates Farsi is thought to be angling

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